

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00  
ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /053 W  
-----014427 081548Z /53

O R 081308Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0636

INFO AMEMBASSY DARESSLAAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY MASERU POUCH

AMEMBASSY MBABANE POUCH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, BC, RH

SUBJECT: ALLEGATION OF RHODESIAN AIR ATTACK ON BOTSWANA

REF: (A) GABORONE 2130, (B) LUSAKA 2678, (C) LUSAKA 2680

1. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT HAS RELEASED STATEMENT ALLEGING AIR ATTACK AT PANDAMATENGA ON THE BOTSWANA/RHODESIAN BORDER 60 MILES SOUTH OF KASANE. LATEST RHODESIAN CAMPAIGN REPORTEDLY BEGAN WITH GRENADE ATTACK DESCRIBED REF A, PARA 2, CONTINUING DURING THE NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 3 WITH A BOMBING ATTACK BY THREE RHODESIAN AIRCRAFT. ACCORDING TO REPORT IN SEPTEMBER 6 DAILY NEWS. NO CASULTIES WERE SUFFERED ON BOTSWANA SIDE, BUT THE ATTACK STARTED BUSH FIRES WHICH ARE STILL OUT OF CONTROL. MOREOVER, INHABITANTS OF AREA WERE FORCED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES FOR SAFER AREAS FARTHER FROM BORDER.

2. DAILY NEWS ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT RHODESIAN "BUILD-

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UP" IS CONTINUING ACROSS BORDER FROM BOTSWANA "POLICE STATION" AT PANDAMATENGA. ARTICLE STATES RHODESIAN TROOPS "INTEND CONTINUING WITH THEIR UNPROVOKED ATTACK ON BOTSWANA".

3. COMMENT: WE NOTE THAT REPORTED AIR ATTACK ON BOTSWANA COINCIDES WITH RHODESIAN AIR RAIDS WHICH PRO-

VOKED IMPOSITION OF CURFEW IN ZAMBIA. REFERENCE IN  
DAILY NEWS TO BOTSWANA "POLICE STATION" INDICATES THAT  
BDF IS PROBABLY NOT DEPLOYED IN PANDAMATENGA WHICH IS, AS NOTED,  
60 MILES FROM MAIN NORTHERN BASE AT KASANE/KAZUNGULA  
AREA. LATEST CLASHES APPEAR TO BE FURTHER EVIDENCE  
THAT RHODESIAN FORCES ARE ABLE TO STRIKE AT WILL ALONG  
BOTSWANA'S NORTHWESTERN BORDER AND DO NOT HESITATE TO DO SO.  
NORLAND

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ALLEGATIONS, AIR COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977GABORO02162  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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**Reference:** 77 GABORONE 2130, 77 LUSAKA 2678, 77 LUSAKA 2680  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1351853  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ALLEGATION OF RHODESIAN AIR ATTACK ON BOTSWANA  
**TAGS:** MOPS, BC, RH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b275aa4a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009